

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☐

Property Name: Amos-Archer Farmstead Inventory Number: HA-1260
Address: 1120 Bel Air Road City: Bel Air Zip Code: 21014
County: Harford USGS Topographic Map: Bel Air, Maryland Quadrangle
Owner: Harford County Is the property being evaluated a district? ☐ yes
Tax Parcel Number: 106 Tax Map Number: 48 Tax Account ID Number: No information available
Project: Bel Air Shoppes Agency: US Army Corps of Engineers
Site visit by MHT Staff: ☒ no ☐ yes Name: _____ Date: _____
Is the property located within a historic district? ☐ yes ☒ no

If the property is within a district

District Inventory Number: _____

NR-listed district ☐ yes Eligible district ☐ yes District Name: _____

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ☐ yes ☐ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ☐

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☐ yes ☒ no

Criteria: ☒ A ☒ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☒ A ☒ B ☒ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MIHP form, Bel Air County Library, Bel Air Town, William Amos

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Description

The Amos-Archer Farmstead contains a corn crib and barn, along with a modern trailer home, garage, and shed, located in Bel Air Town. It is substantially set back atop a hill and surrounded by a mixture of agricultural land and forested wetlands that are spread out along a tract of varying elevations to the west, an open field to the north, a densely forested area to the east, and a mid- to late-18th-century farmhouse (HA-1259) to the south.

Building Descriptions

The original farmhouse suffered damage from fires in the early 1990s and in 1997, and has since been demolished and removed, leaving the corn crib and barn, along with the other contemporary structures noted above.

Corn Crib

The corn crib is a wood-frame structure with a gable-front roof. It is covered in vertical wood siding and has a fieldstone foundation. It currently serves as a garage. Visual evidence suggests that the corn crib was most likely constructed during the early twentieth century.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Comments: _____

Jonathan Sages
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

12/1/08
Date

NA
Reviewer, NR Program

Date

200802570

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 1

HA-1260

Barn

The barn consists of a combination fieldstone/concrete-block-unit base and combination wood-frame/fieldstone walls with remnants of vertical wood siding. Visual evidence and conversations with a direct descendant of the Amos family indicates that the barn was originally constructed in the mid eighteenth century with subsequent alterations during the early twentieth century, and had its foundation altered during the 1960s (Interview with Bill Amos, May 13, 2008). Visual evidence suggests that the corn crib was most likely constructed during the early twentieth century.

Historic Overview

The Amos-Archer Farmstead was surveyed as part of a county-wide historic sites survey in 1979 (Shivera 1979:HA-1260). Deed research indicated that the subject property was possibly in the Amos family for more than a century before it was acquired by Joseph and Mary Archer in 1918. The surveyor surmised that it was most likely in the possession of the Amos family before William Amos II (1718-1914) was buried there, and was most likely part of the 200-acre "Clarkson's Purchase," which William Amos I acquired from Henry Wright in 1715. Upon William I's death in 1757, he deeded the land to his son, William Amos II. The latter was first a military man and later, after a pacifist conversion, a Quaker minister who founded the Little Falls Meeting. In addition, he was an early abolitionist, leading others to follow his lead in releasing slaves in his possession. Following Amos's death, his son James inherited the property, and in turn deeded it to his son, William Lee Amos, in 1845. The 1814 tax list for the property indicated a 2-story stone dwelling with a 1½-story kitchen, dimensions of the former which the surveyor noted were mirrored by a portion of what existed at the time of the survey in 1979. William Lee's son, Garrett Lee Amos, inherited the property in 1875, followed by Garrett Lee's son's (William Lee Amos II) inheritance in 1889.

The 130-acre property was acquired by Joseph and Mary Archer in 1918 for \$12,717; their son, Raymond Archer, assumed title to it in 1946 (Shivera 1979:HA-1260:4,7). The farm cultivated hay, corn, grain, wheat, oats, and tomatoes, and was known as a stopping point for drovers en route to Baltimore, whose cattle and sheep rested there and fed on the hay and corn (Interview with Bill Amos, May 13, 2008). Further, in the late nineteenth century the farm's tomatoes were considered the "markets' standard," numbering 400 bushels to the acre (Harford County Historic Preservation Commission 1999:4).

The surveyor surmised that the oldest part of the dwelling dated to the time of William Amos II during the late 18th century and the mansard roof was most likely added during the time of Garrett Lee or his son. The surveyor also noted the presence of six outbuildings on the property but only discussed four of them: a small barn used as a garage, a corn crib, an open shed, and a large barn. According to Amos family descendent, Bill Amos, the small barn used as a garage is the former corn crib and the only other surviving outbuilding is the large barn, which he asserted was constructed in three campaigns: stone wall portion (early eighteenth century), wood-frame over stone foundation portion (mid nineteenth century), and concrete block unit section (1960s) (Interview with Bill Amos, May 13, 2008). He also noted that an adjacent stone outbuilding had been replaced by a garage in the 1960s. In the early 1990s there was a fire which considerably damaged the farmhouse (Harford County Historic Preservation Commission 1999:5). This was followed by another house fire in 1997, resulting in its demolition (Interview with Bill Amos, May 13, 2008). Other outbuildings may have been removed at this time, leaving only the corn crib and large barn. The property is currently owned by Harford County.

Map research indicated that no buildings were identified on the property in 1858, whereas maps from 1878, 1901, 1902, and 1906 indicated a building in the approximate location of the subject dwelling (Jennings and Herrick 1858; Martenet 1878; Wilson 1901, 1906; Clark 1902). In addition, CRCG's investigation of Sanborn maps for the property yielded no information.

Architectural Context

Most of the studies of local and regional architecture have focused on the building stock of the towns and suburbs—and not on its rural areas—since the former contain the highest concentrations of construction trends between the late 18th and early 20th centuries. In her discussion of the architecture of Bel Air, Marilyn Larew noted that it reflected "the secure, solid development from village to town," and embodied the needs of its artisans, shop proprietors, and professional people, as well as its slave community (Larew 1981:1). Larew maintained that the townspeople "built for respectable comfort, they built houses that pleased their eyes and hearts" and did not fully embrace the popular styles of the late 17th to mid-19th century, consisting of Federal, Greek Revival, and Gothic Revival designs (Larew 1981:2). Consequently, institutional buildings tended to reference

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random motifs from these styles but not adhere to a formal interpretation of them, while residential buildings adhered to more vernacular styles associated with Colonial Revival forms employing side-gable roof profiles with gable-front dormers, shed- or hipped-roof porches, and little or no architectural ornamentation. Larew's inventory from 1798 indicates two 2-story brick houses, six 2-story frame houses, eleven 1½-story frame houses, and eleven 1-story frame dwellings (Larew 1981:14). Two of these homes, the Hays House (HA-225) and Van Bibber House (HA-224), had kitchen ells added to them during the early 19th century which were constructed of fieldstone, yet still vernacular in character. Another house, known as Poplar Grove (HA-1080), featured an original 2½-story, side-gable fieldstone dwelling designed in 1798 with subsequent fieldstone additions by 1814 (Larew 1995:30-31).

After the Civil War, Larew noted that architectural style was more pronounced in Bel Air in its institutional and commercial buildings, while its residential buildings subscribed to the popular styles of the Victorian era (Larew 1981:39). These styles included Gothic Revival, incorporating various types of center-gable roofs, Queen Anne, with its asymmetrical massing and varied ornamentation, and Classical Revival, with its simpler and purer forms. Nevertheless, Larew observed that these were mere explorations that were set within a context of architecture dominated by "the 2-story, 3-bay, L-shaped frame house" (Larew 1981:40). Toward the end of the 19th century, more formal interpretations of Colonial Revival were incorporated into residential design, along with four-squares.

Christopher Weeks's architectural survey of Harford County indicates a marked preference for Colonial Revival forms throughout the region (Weeks 1996:291-312). Characterized by wood-frame and/or fieldstone construction, these dwellings feature side- or center-hall plans with side-gable roofs featuring side-gable or shed-roof additions, wood-paneled doors, 6/6 wood sash windows adorned with wooden shutters, gable-front dormers, and brick or stone end chimneys. In addition to his comprehensive survey of dwellings, Weeks includes a discussion of the stone and frame Booth-Wagner Barn (HA-1265), which he notes were once "ubiquitous features in the Harford landscape (and near-flawless indicators of a farmer's wealth)" and now a diminishing resource (Weeks 1996:312). He also praises the structure for its being representative of 19th-century building technology and its associations with its 19th-century farming family (Weeks 1996:312).

In addition to the Town of Bel Air, there were multiple areas of suburban growth in the early 20th century following World War I that included Fulford Park (1922), Ingleside (1923), and Kenmore (1924) (Baynard n.d.:10). By contrast, construction declined during the mid-1930s to the early 1950s, the former most likely owing to the Depression and the latter owing to the downsizing of the Aberdeen Proving Ground, which provided a source of employment during the World Wars. However, there was a re-surge in suburban growth during the 1950s and early 1960s, resulting in the creation of Howard Park (1951), Shamrock (1955), and Homestead Village (early 1960s) (Baynard n.d.:12). Throughout the early to mid-20th century, Colonial Revival, Dutch Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Craftsman, and Modern provided the stylistic identity of these communities with Cape Cods and ranch-style homes prevailing during the Postwar years (Baynard n.d.:22).

Evaluation

In the 1979 survey of the property, the surveyor described the subject dwelling as consisting of a 2½-story east section in an L configuration featuring a mansard roof, a 1-story "recent" stucco addition, the oldest portion featuring a 2½-story dwelling with a gable roof, and a 1-story, shed-roof frame wing. The mansard portion was described as being constructed of coursed fieldstone with corner quoins and a molded, boxed cornice with gabled dormers with gable returns. Windows featured 6/6 sash units. The east elevation of the mansard roof portion was characterized as being three bays wide and two bays deep, featuring a pedimented portico supported by four tapered columns, flanked by windows whose second-story configuration aligned with the first story (window-door-window). The entrance door was noted to have a 4-light, colored-glass transom. The oldest portion was described as being constructed of fieldstone and having a shed-roof porch with 6/6 windows and gable-front dormers (Shivera 1979:HA-1260:3). With regard to the outbuildings, the survey indicated that there were six outbuildings on the property, three of which consisted of a "frame barn used as a garage, a corn crib, and an open shed," along with a "stone and frame barn with hand-hewn posts and collar beams and pegged rafters" (Shivera 1979:HA-1260:6).

Regarding significance, the surveyor concluded that as the site of the Amos Family burying ground, this property belonged to the Amos family for at least a century before Joseph & Mary Archer purchased it in 1918" (Shivera 1979:HA-1260:1). Further, the surveyor noted that, "The house is truly befitting of such an old and distinguished Harford County family," describing it as

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17A-1260

"prepossessing—traditional, yet unconventional, adding that "Mansard-roofed stone houses are relatively rare in this area, and the double row of dormers is particularly unusual" (Shivera 1979:HA-1260:1). Reiterating the history contained within the survey, Christopher Weeks asserted that the "rambling stone house" was "impressive in its decay," having housed six generations of the Amos family (Weeks 1996:311). Weeks also noted that the property's name, "Mount Soma," was a fitting name for a farmstead inhabited by a Quaker minister, owing to the fact that the word "mount" has biblical allusions and the word "Soma" is "Amos" spelled backwards (Weeks 1996:311). Weeks ascribed an early construction date of c.1715 without ascribing dates to the additions or the outbuildings. Weeks also noted that the house had recently been gutted by fire (Weeks 1996:312).

In 1999, the Harford County Historic Preservation Commission recommended that the Mt. Soma property be listed as a Harford County landmark (Harford County Historic Preservation Commission 1999). In its report, the Commission cited its conformance with the following county designation criteria:

Criterion 1: Its character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the community, state, or country.

The applicability of this criterion was based on the property's long association with the Amos family and on William Amos, II's advocate as a Quaker and an abolitionist (Harford County Historic Preservation Commission 1999:3-4).

Criterion 2: Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the community, state, or country.

The applicability of this criterion was based on the property's association with William Amos, II, for the reasons stated above (Harford County Historic Preservation Commission 1999:4).

Criterion 4: Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style.

The applicability of this criterion was based on the property's mansion, while ultimately noting that "most of these matters are moot, however, since the house...is a magnificent ruin" (Harford County Historic Preservation Commission 1999:5).

Criterion 9: Its character as a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian structure.

The applicability of this criterion was based on the property's several small outbuildings and large stone-and-frame barn with its "hand-hewn posts and collar beams and pegged rafters" (Harford County Historic Preservation Commission 1999:5).

Regarding its integrity, the Commission stated:

Although the property has been diminished over the generations as various Amoses bequeathed portions of the original tract to family members, the nominated site (68.73 acres), including main house and outbuildings, retains sufficient grounds to suggest the way Mount Soma looked when it was at the heart of the County's agriculture-based economy" (Harford County Historic Preservation Commission 1999:6).

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NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 4

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The Amos-Archer Farmstead meets a statewide historic context of Eastern Shore Agricultural/Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870 in historic period themes of Agriculture and Architecture. With regard to significance, the Amos-Archer Farmstead is eligible under Criterion A for its contributions to the development of agriculture in Harford County as a premiere stopping ground for drovers and their cattle and sheep, and for its quality of tomato crops. The farmstead is eligible under Criterion B for its association with William Amos II, who was influential in promoting both the Quaker religion and abolitionist practices in Bel Air, and under Criterion C for being representative of a vernacular style of mid-18th to early-20th-century rural architecture. No evidence was found to suggest that the farmstead is significant under Criterion D.

In the early 1990s and in 1997, the farmhouse suffered damage from two fires, thereby rendering it a ruin and resulting in its demolition and removal. Today, all that remains of the farmstead are a former corn crib and large barn, along with a modern trailer home, garage, and shed. Given the fact that the farmhouse was singularly called out as the significant resource in both the 1979 and 1996 surveys of the property (as well as in the county's 1999 designation report as a ruin), its wholesale removal has resulted in a substantial loss of integrity to the farmstead. Further compounding this loss of integrity are the demolition and removal of the four outbuildings listed in the description of the 1979 survey. Finally, the large barn, which, according to Christopher Weeks, represents a diminishing resource type in Harford County, has been compromised by the introduction of concrete-block units to its fieldstone foundation and severe deterioration of its vertical wood siding. Thus, while the farmstead retains its integrity of location and setting, it no longer retains its integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association as a mid-18th to early-20th-century farmstead.

Although the Amos-Archer Farmstead is eligible under Criteria A, B, and C, the removal of its farmhouse and four of its six outbuildings, compounded by unsympathetic alterations to its barn, prevents it from conveying its significance and therefore ineligible for National Register listing.

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**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 5

HA-1260

Sources

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Harford County Historic Preservation Commission

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Martenet

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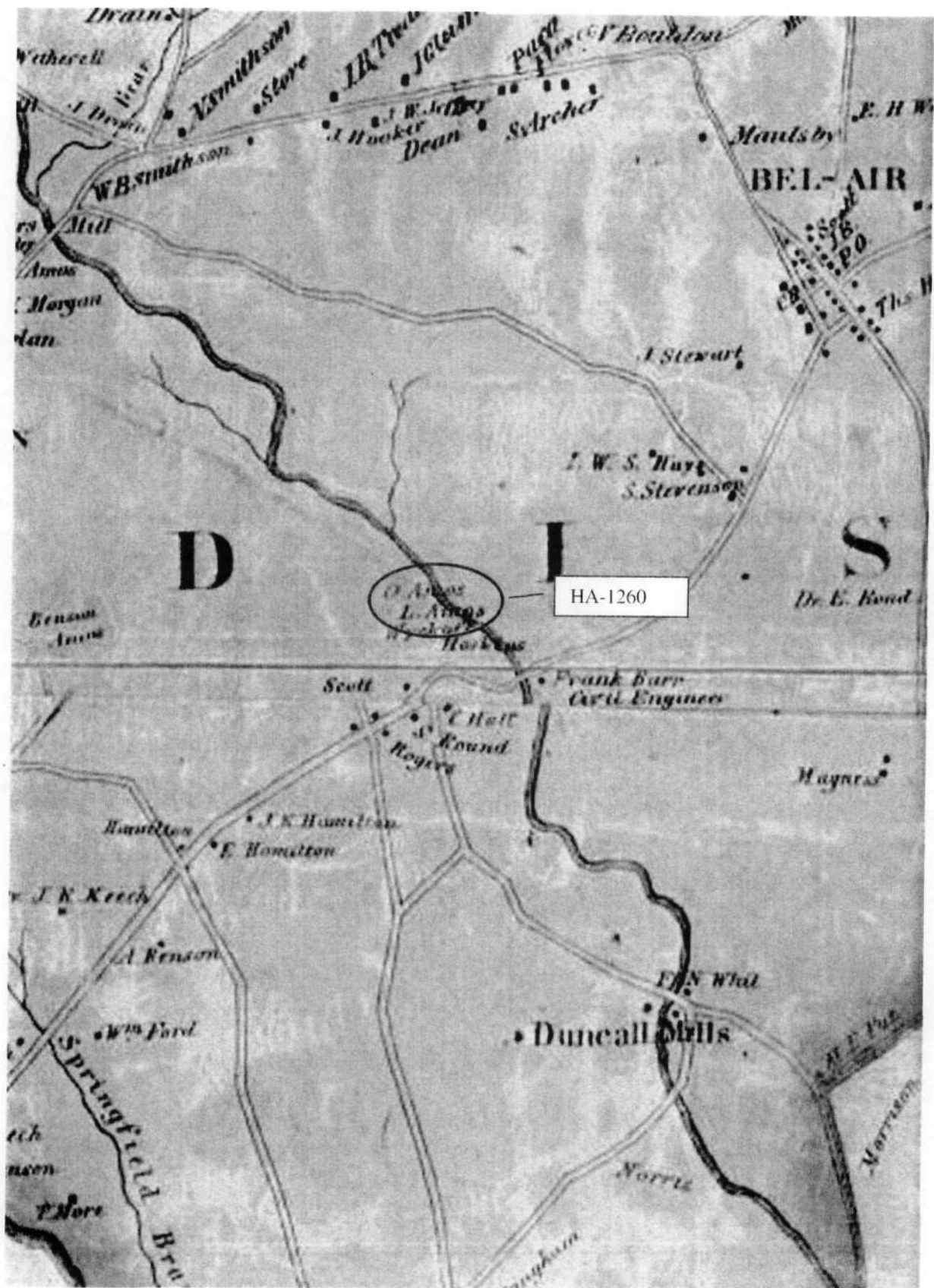
- 1901 USGS Bel Air Quadrangle. Maryland-Harford Co. 7.5 minute series.
1902 USGS Bel Air Quadrangle. Maryland-Harford Co. 7.5 minute series.

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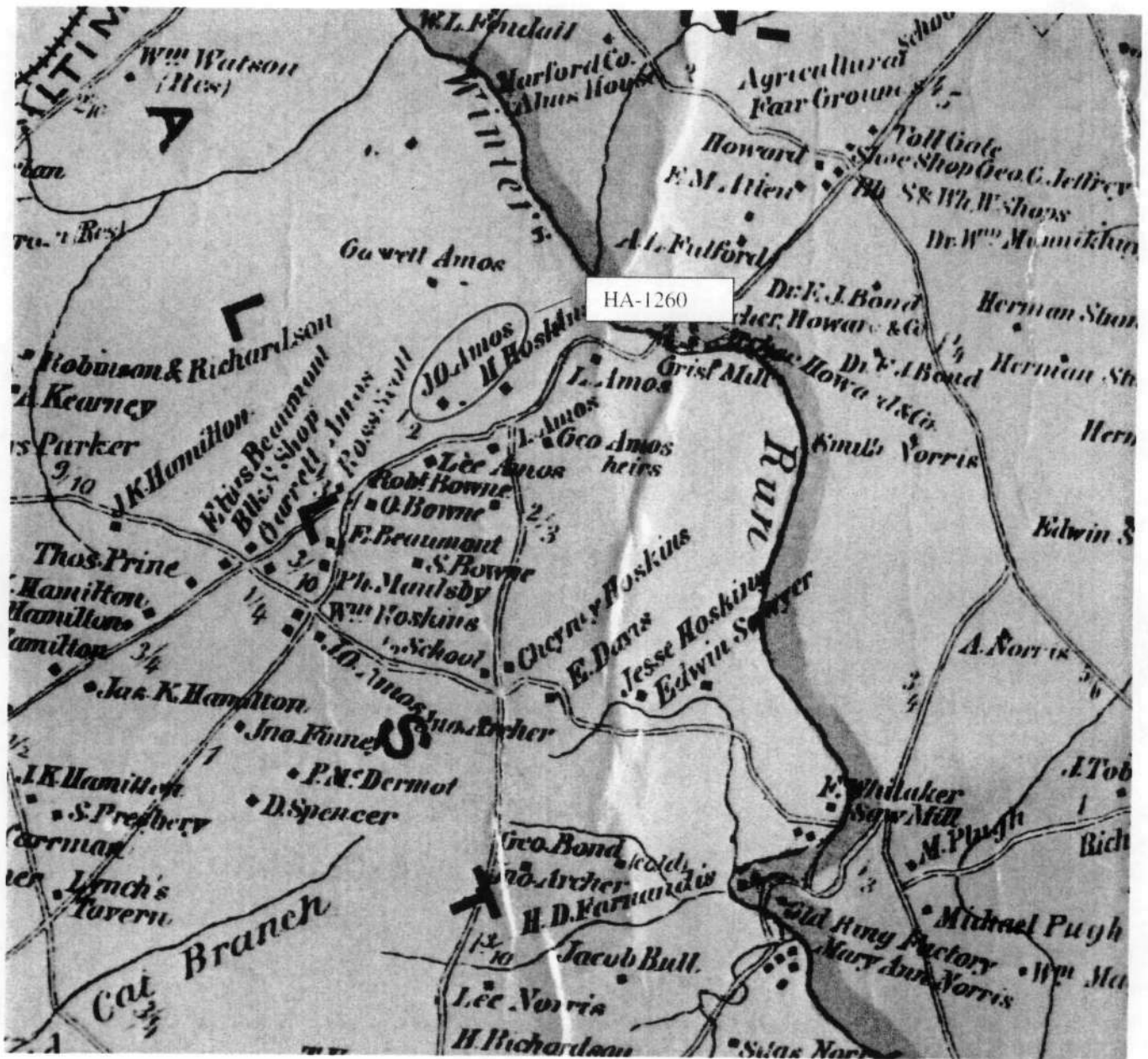
Prepared by:

Date Prepared: July 24, 2008

HA-1260
Amos-Archer Farmstead
Bel Air Town, Harford County
1858 Map of Harford County, Maryland. Jennings and Herrick.



HA-1260
 Amos-Archer Farmstead
 Bel Air Town, Harford County
 1878 Martenet's Map of Harford County, Maryland. Simon J. Martenet, Baltimore, Md.



HA-1260
Amos-Archer Farmstead
Bel Air Town, Harford County
1902 USGS Bel Air Quadrangle. Maryland-Harford Co. 7.5 minute series, H.M. Wilson.

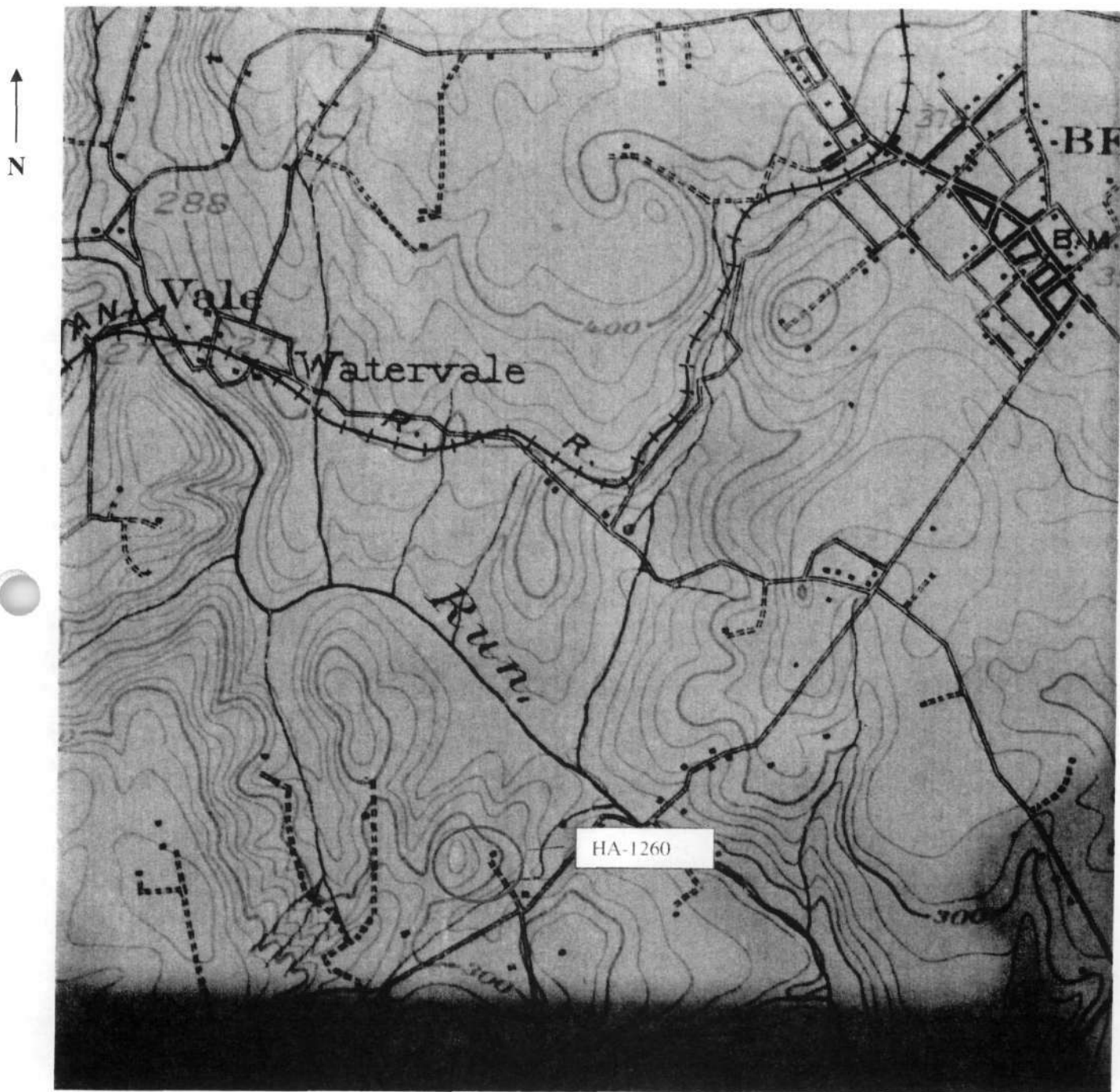
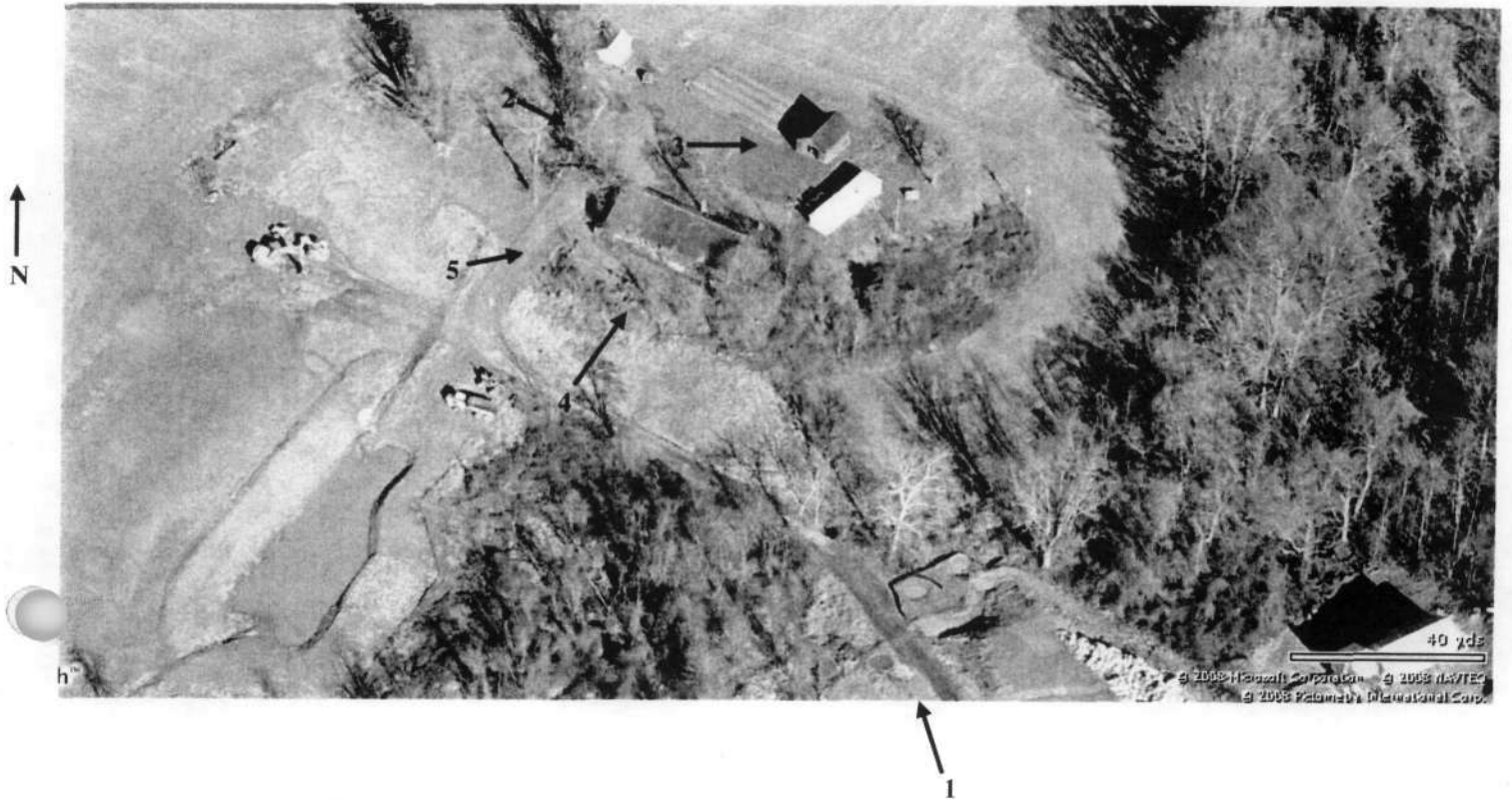
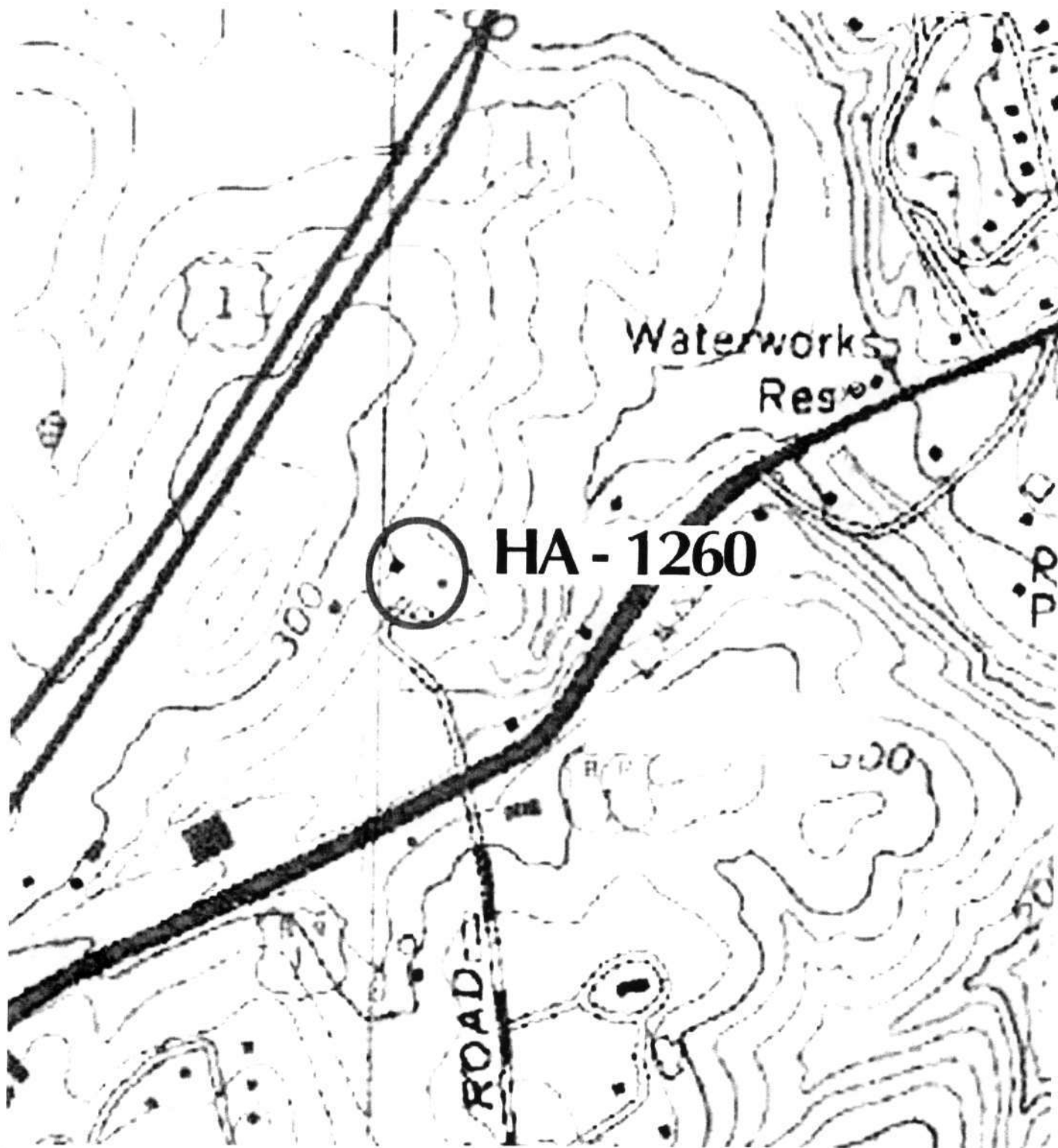


Photo Angle Map
HA-1260
Amos-Archer Farmstead
Bel Air Town, Harford County
Aerial Base Map: 2008 Microsoft Virtual Earth Live Search.



HA-1260
Amos-Archer Farmstead
Bel Air Town, Harford County
USGS 7.5' Quadrangles: Bel Air, MD. 1956 (Photorevised 1986) and Jarrettsville, MD 1956, (Photorevised 1974).
Scale 1:24,000

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**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 6

HA-1260

Photo Log

Photos taken: May 1, 2008

Photographer: Gregory Dietrich, CRCG

Photos are printed on glossy HP Premium Photo Paper using an HP 100 gray photo cartridge.

Photos are saved on a CD with the following specifications:

Brand: MAM-A

Make: CD-R Gold

Dye Type: Phthalocyanine

1. Subject property, view north from Bel Air Road.
2. Subject property showing the corn crib at left, modern trailer home, and barn at right, view southeast.
3. Corn crib, view east.
4. Barn, view northeast.
5. Barn, view east.

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Date Prepared: July 24, 2008



AMOS - Archer Farmstead
Fairford Farm, MD

Gregory Dietrich

May 1, 2008

MD: SHPO

Subject Property, view north
from Bel Air Road.

1/5



HA-1260

Amos Archerif

Harford County, MD

Gregory Dietrich

May 1, 2008

MD SHPO

Subject property showing the
corn crib at left, modern trailer
home, and barn at right, view
southeast

2/5



HA - 1266

Amos - Archer Farmstead
Hartford County, MD

Gregory Dietrich

May 1, 2004

MD SHPO

Corn Crib, view east

3/5



LA-1260

Amos-licher Farmstead

Harford County, MD

Langley Dietrich

May 1, 2008

MD LHP

Barn, view northeast

4/5



HA-1260

AMOS - Archer Farmstead

Harford County, MD

Begun by Dietrich

May 1, 2008

MD SHPO

Barn, view east

5/5

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Amos-Archer House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1120 Bel Air Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air,

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland 21014

COUNTY

Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Raymond Archer

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

1120 Bel Air Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air,

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21014**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 298

Folio #: 468

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air,

STATE
Maryland**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

—EXCELLENT
 XGOOD
 —FAIR

—DETERIORATED
 —RUINS
 —UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

—UNALTERED
 XALTERED

CHECK ONE

XORIGINAL SITE
 —MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This stone house built in five parts is located in Harford County on the west side of Bel Air Road (Business Rte. 1), where it intersects with Old Joppa Road. The composite structure is irregularly-shaped: the 2½-story east section with a mansard roof is el-shaped and was built in two stages; on its south side, at the juncture of the el, is a one-story recent stuccoed addition; attached to the west end of the mansard section is the oldest portion of the house, which is 2½-stories with a gable roof; attached to its west end is a one-story, shed-roofed frame wing.

In the mansard-roofed section, the east portion was built after the center portion, and dates from the time the mansard roof with dormers was added over both parts. The north end of the east portion and the north side of the center portion are flush and form the long side of the el shape. Laid in coursed fieldstone with corner quoins, this mansard section has a molded, boxed cornice with two-part bed molding and gabled dormers with gable returns. There are brick chimneys in the south end of the east part and the west end of the center part. The roof shingles are laid decoratively, with a center row of scalloped shingles. The windows with plain, beaded trim have 6/6 sash with louvered shutters in the second story, and shutters with louvers over one panel in the first story. There are two dormers on the east facade, three on the north, and dormers in both slopes of the mansard roof on the back of the house on the west and on the south sides.

The east part is three bays wide and two bays deep. On the east or front facade the entrance with a pedimented portico is in the north bay and is flanked on the south by two windows. The three windows in the second story are aligned with those in the first story. The six-panel entrance door has a four-light transom with colored glass; the portico has four square tapered columns on square bases across the front and two attached to the house.

The north end has an entrance with a pedimented portico in the west bay, flanked on the east by a window. Altered stonework west of the door indicates where the east and center sections were joined. There is a two-light window in the basement east bay. In the second story, the windows are aligned with the three dormers, so there is one window in the east part. The door with a two-light transom with etched glass has two arched panels over two rectangular panels. The portico has two columns on square bases in the front and two attached to the house.

The south end is blank.

On the west side, the stucco addition covers the first story, and there is one window in the second story and a double row of dormers—one in each slope of the mansard roof.

In the center part, the north side has two replaced double windows in the first story, with a basement hatch in the east bay and a two-light basement window in the west bay. Altered stonework indicates there was a window or door between the first story windows.

On the south side of the central part, the stuccoed wing covers the first story west bay. The window in the east bay has no shutters, and there are two windows in the second story, two dormers, and one dormer in the upper slope of the roof.

The two-bay by two-bay west wing laid in uncoursed fieldstone has a brick chimney

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

HA-1260

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The site of the Amos family burying ground,¹ this property was in the Amos family for at least a century--and perhaps more--before Joseph and Mary Archer bought it in 1918. The chain of ownership within the Amos family is ambiguous, but since William Amos II (b.1718, d.1814) was buried here, it was probably acquired before that. The property may have been part of "Clarkson's Purchase", 200 acres of which William Amos I obtained from Henry Wright in 1715.² William Amos I made this the site of his homestead and left it to his son, William Amos II in his will³ when he died in 1757. The oldest section of the house probably dates to the time of William Amos II--around the end of the 18th century.

William Amos II was one of Harford County's most illustrious citizens. First a high-ranking officer in the county militia, he became a founder of the Little Falls Meeting House and a devout Quaker minister. According to a testimony from the Gunpowder monthly meeting at his death, William Amos had been in the militia (Lieutenant of the 6th company of the 42nd regiment of Maryland), when he was struck with pacifist notions. Thereupon, he assembled a small group of friends to join the Gunpowder Meeting House and then to start their own--"Little Falls". According to the testimony, he "often expressed the desire to turn men from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God, being himself an example of meekness, resignation, piety, benevolence, and charity.. He was also one of the earliest abolitionists--"a jealous advocate in the cause of the oppressed descendents of the Africans"--and one of the first to liberate those in his possession and to enjoin others to do likewise.

William Amos II had ten children with his first wife, Hannah McComas, and three with his second wife, Martha Wyle. Which of his children inherited the homestead is unclear. Eventually, however, it passed to his son James, and then to James' son, William Lee Amos,⁴ in 1845. On the 1814 tax list, James Amos of William is credited with 181 acres of "Clarksons Purchase" and "The Grove" and 150 acres of "Clarksons Purchase" on which is a two-story stone dwelling, 22' x 18', and another stone building 22 x 18 with a 1 1/2-story kitchen. The dimensions 22 x 18 match those of the oldest portion of the house. The middle section of the house may have been built by either generation (there is little amplifying architectural evidence). Garrett Amos, son of William Lee Amos, inherited the property in 1870⁵ and, in 1889, the property comprising 230 acres went to his son, William Lee Amos (the second).⁶ The mansard-roofed portion of the house probably dates to Garrett Amos--or even to William Lee Amos the second, who owned it until 1918 when he sold the house and 130 acres to Joseph and Mary Archer for \$12,717.90.⁷ The property is now owned by their son, Raymond Archer, who took over title to it in 1946.⁸

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Portrait & Biographical Sketch of Harford and Cecil Counties, Md., N.Y. & Chicago,
Chapman Publishing Co., 1897.
2. Wright, C. Milton, Our Harford Heritage.
3. Geneology of The Amos Family: St. George & St. John's Parish Records, Harford Co.,
Md. (On deposit in the Enoch Pratt Library).

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Natalie Shivers, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Harford County Historic District Commission

DATE

May, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

45 S. Main St.

TELEPHONE

301-879-2000 ext. 207

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air,

STATE

MD 21014

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

in its west end, and a shed-roofed porch along its north facade. The windows have 6/6 sash and plain trim, and the dormers have gable roofs.

On the north side, the entrance is in the east bay, flanked on the west by a window, with two windows in the second story, and one dormer. The south side is partly stuccoed, which has chipped off to reveal flat brick window arches.

On the west end, the one-story, five-bay frame addition extends to the edge of the porch on the north side and three bays beyond the house on the south side: only the part next to the house is enclosed; south of the house, the wing is a shed.

The interior plan of the east section consists of a stairhall on the north and one room on the south. In the hall, the open-string, dog-leg staircase is against the north wall. It has square balusters, urn-shaped newel posts, and scroll brackets. On the east entrance door is a Dutch lock with a brass knob and on the north entrance door is a square plate latch with a round brass knob. Double doors in the south wall lead into the south room, which has a fireplace in a projecting chimney breast in the center of the south wall and a blocked-up window in the west wall. The mantle has a cavetto shelf on end blocks, a center panel in the frieze, and columns flanking the brick opening. This room has a plain wainscot and molded chairrail, and the windows have paneled jambs and soffits. The trim on each floor is different in this part.

Under this portion and the center portion is a basement with stone interior and exterior walls. The sawn joists run east-west under the east section and north-south under the south section.

In the center section is one room with a winder staircase in the southwest corner. The west wall originally contained a fireplace (now blocked-up), flanked by a closet on the south and a door to the west wing on the north. The doors are of beaded boards, and there is a beaded board wainscot.

The west wing has one room on each floor with a winder staircase in the southeast corner. None of the original trim is extant.

There are three small frame outbuildings south of the house, and three north of the house: a frame barn used as a garage, a corn crib, and an open shed. Northeast of the house is a stone and frame barn with hand-hewn posts and collar beams and pegged rafters.

The house itself is truly befitting of such an old and illustrious Harford County family. Set on the top of a hill, it is prepossessing--traditional, yet unconventional enough to distinguish it from other houses in the county. There are few stone houses with mansard roofs in the area, and the double row of dormer windows is particularly unusual.

Footnotes

¹ C. Milton Wright, Our Harford Heritage, p. 221

² Josephine P. Amos, who consolidated the Amos family records, noted that "Clarkson's Purchase" was on the southwest branch of Bush River which, presumably, is Winter's Run. The property discussed here is located just west of Winter's Run and may, indeed, be part of "Clarkson's Purchase".

³ William Amos I's will, dated Sept. 24, 1757, in Amos Family Records, recorded by Josephine P. Amos.

⁴ Will Records: Liber TSB 60, Folio 90.

⁵ Will Records: Liber BHH 8, Folio 182.

⁶ Land Records: Liber ALJ 65, Folio 138.

⁷ Land Records: Liber JAR 160, Folio 57.

⁸ Land Records: Liber 298, Folio 468.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Cont'd.)

4. Records of the Amos Family assembled by Josephine P. Amos, 1942.
5. Land and Will Records of Harford County, Maryland.

TITLE SEARCH

Amos-Archer House

HA-1260

JAR 160/57 January 5, 1918

GRANTOR: William L. and Sarah E. B. Amos
GRANTEE: Joseph S. Archer
ACREAGE: 130.44 acres
SUM: \$12,717.

ALJ 65/138 June 5, 1889

GRANTOR: Garret Amoss
GRANTEE: William L. Amoss
ACREAGE: 230 acres

Will Records BHH 8/182 1870

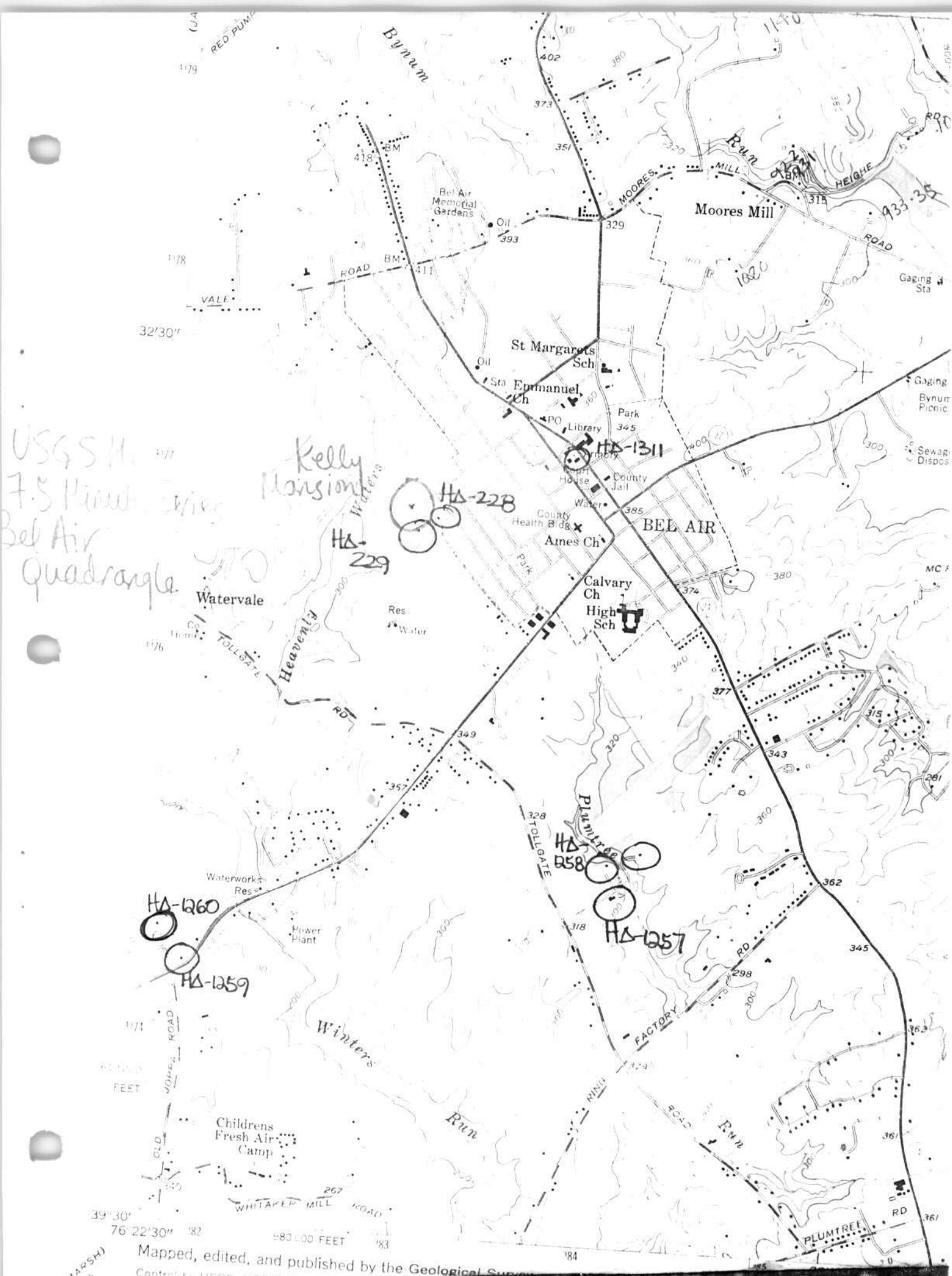
DEVISOR: William Lee Amoss
DEWISEE: Garrett Amoss

Will Records TSB 60/90 1845

DEVISOR: James Amoss
DEWISEE: William Lee Amoss

Will Records in Amos Family History
September 24, 1757

DEVISOR: William Amoss I
DEWISEE: William Amoss II





Amos-Archer House
Bel Air, MD 21014
Natalie Shivers
Southeast elevation

HA-1260

1/79



Amos-Archer House HA-1260
Bel Air, MD 21014
Natalie Shivers 1/79
Northeast elevation



Amos-Archer House
Bel Air, MD 21014
Natalie Shivers
South elevation

HA-1260

1/79